

There are lots of potential spanking scenes in this story, as befits its epic nature. Susan first puts herself in serious trouble when she and Ping-Cho wander out into the desert in 'The Singing Sands', and are roundly told off on their return by both Barbara and Marco Polo. There's an interestingly suggestive line from Ian, too when he tells Susan that 'luckily for her' the Doctor has slept through the sandstorm and the panic of her absence. This has got to mean she must have evaded something even worse than the telling-off she has already had - in other words, a spanking.

In my version, the still furious Barbara intervenes at this point, saying the Doctor may not know of Susan's misbehavior, but she, Barbara, is going to deal with it. She tells Susan to go to her room and wait. As Susan goes, she gulps with anticipation as she hears Barbara ask Marco Polo where she can get a length of thin bamboo. 'Six of the best, eh?' grins Ian, while Marco replies in puzzlement that there is no bamboo in the caravan, but that in time they will pass through the bamboo forest near Sinju, and Barbara can gather all she needs from there. Barbara says that will be too late and leaves for Susan's room, saying she will have to make do.

After lecturing Susan some more, Barbara turns the shamefaced schoolgirl over her knee and takes down her pants to reveal plain white cotton panties. Barbara hesitates a moment, then pulls the panties down too: they are in private, and she is determined to make this a spanking to remember! Susan bites her lip as Barbara's hand smacks down across her plump bare bottom. And in the main tent, Ping-Cho listens with mounting unease as her friend takes her punishment. As for the Doctor: he sleeps through the whole thing!

After Barbara returns to the main tent brushing her hands together in grim satisfaction, Ping-Cho slips quietly out, to find a chastened Susan lying face-down on the bed in her underwear. 'She spanked me,' whispers Susan. 'On my bare bottom. Even grandfather would never do that.' Ping-Cho is appalled, when Susan gently draws down the elasticated waistband of her panties to reveal her bright red, shiny bottom: her people have very different customs, for in Samarkand such a punishment is fit only for a peasant girl.

The caravan continues on its way through the Gobi Desert, and Ping-Cho is grimly fascinated to hear how Barbara and the Doctor threaten to spank Susan when she misbehaves. It is an indignity she can barely imagine, yet her friend seems to take it as nothing more than an unpleasant fact of life. And so we move on to the Cave of Five Hundred Eyes, where we'll need to do a little restructuring.

The Doctor, Susan and Ping-Cho are going to investigate the cave as in the TV version of the story, and are told that it is haunted. This worries Susan as they make their way into the darkness, but the Doctor is irascible, pointing out firmly that she knows very well that there are no such things as ghosts. So when they come upon the carved bandits' faces, and Susan has a screaming fit, the Doctor loses his temper. Susan is hysterical and will not calm down, but he is only irritated by this. 'I will not hear of such silly nonsense from my own grandchild!' he snaps, sits

down on a rock and turns her over his knee.

The Doctor begins to lecture Susan, sternly pointing out that it only takes a moment's rational inspection to see that the sparkling eyes of the 'ghostly' faces are nothing more than quartz. With her bottom upturned and vulnerable, Susan is mortified as she awaits the spanking she knows will follow: she has never before been punished in front of a friend of her own age, so she feels humiliated, but also ashamed of her own superstitious behavior. And then the lecture ends and the spanking begins, and any thoughts of personal dignity are banished by the sharp, rhythmical slap of her grandfather's palm across her silk-clad bottom.

Ping-Cho doesn't know where to look. She wants to spare her friend embarrassment, yet she is also fascinated by a ritual she has never before witnessed. Yet she is also afraid: if such a thing can be done to Susan, it might also happen to her. Eventually, remembering the Doctor's words, the Asian girl fixes her gaze on the carvings - and screams in horror when the eyes move! As in the TV version, the bandits who have kidnapped Barbara have been alerted by noises in the cave - only this time it's the sound of Susan getting spanked!

I adjusted the events here slightly to ensure that there was, in the Doctor's own terms, a justifiable reason for the spanking. I had thought he might spank her for hysteria when she sees the eyes move, as she does on TV, but the problem there is that the eyes **do** move: she would be proved right and the spanking would have been unfair. Whereas in my version she is spanked not so much for making a fuss as for her gullibility in believing the locals' primitive superstitions, behavior which the Doctor finds peculiarly provocative. Ping-Cho is in no danger because she is one of those superstitious locals and such behavior is only to be expected, but Susan should know better.

Part of Ping-Cho feels a guilty pleasure in witnessing Susan's punishment, because it means that she herself is not the one being spanked. (Just like Freud said!) But it also introduces the terrible possibility that another time she might indeed get a spanking if she displeases the older travelers or disobeys Messer Marco. In her mind they both come from the same faroff land and must have the same strange disciplinary customs. She also knows that she is under the Khan's protection, that Messer Marco would never dare to punish her in that way, but there is always a nagging doubt. So when she steals the TARDIS key from Marco's room, she knows that she is risking a very sore bottom to help her friend.

Now we move on to the episode where Ping-Cho runs away and foolishly tries to return home to Samarkand, with little idea of what a distance she will have to travel. As on television version, Ian goes after her, and then Tegana goes after **him**, except that in my version the departures are a little more telescoped together. Things go predictably when Ian catches up with the wayward girl: she tells him that she would rather die than return to the caravan, and although Ian tries to talk reasonably to her, she responds with a childish tantrum. There's only one thing for it: Ping-Cho is going to get her first ever spanking. Ian takes the struggling girl across his knee and says the traditional words, 'This is

going to hurt me more than it hurts you.' But it still hurts Ping-Cho quite a lot as Ian's stern hand cracks down on the seat of her flimsy dress.

It's at this moment that, unseen by Ian or Ping-Cho, Tegana arrives. A smile plays over his face and he pauses a moment, savoring the sight of Ping-Cho's humiliation as Ian slaps her again and again and again. Then he steps out of the shadows and orders Ian to stop. Ping-Cho is a young noblewoman, he insists, and is not to be beaten like a common peasant. Brought to her senses by the spanking, Ping-Cho protests: she does not wish to see Ian suffer for punishing her. But Tegana continues, pointing out that she is under the protection of the Khan himself: the man who assaults her assaults also the mighty master of the world. Ian is now to be taken under guard to the Khan's summer palace, accused not of attempting to steal the TARDIS as on television, but of treason in spanking Ping-Cho.

Kublai Khan hears the case himself. Ian decides that his best defence is integrity. He rode back after Ping-Cho, he declares, with the express intention of spanking her for her misbehavior. In his country, he explains, it is a common punishment for naughty girls. The little Khan reflects, thinking sardonically of his domineering Empress, then giggles at the incongruous thought of her plump form spread out helplessly over his lap. Snapping out of reverie, he turns to Ping-Cho, who tells him demurely that the spanking was no less than she deserved. Thus assured, the Khan pardons Ian, and so the story can continue on its televised course.